

VZCZCXYZ0006  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSJ #0349 1261856  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 051856Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9669  
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0781

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000349

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN AND EAP/MLS ACOPE.

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#) [CS](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: BURMA'S FLAWED CONSTITUTIONAL  
REFERENDUM

REF: 45471

¶1. This message contains an action request -- please see  
paragraph 6.

¶2. Poloff delivered reftel demarche on May 2 to Juan Salas,  
UN Security Council Desk Officer at the MFA. Salas answered  
that Costa Rica supports democratic criteria in general and  
voiced that the situation in Burma involves issues of human  
rights in addition to ensuring a democratic referendum  
process.

¶3. (SBU) Salas also commented that Costa Rica is supporting  
the US draft of a second Presidential Statement. Later in the  
conversation, however, he qualified his statement of support  
by saying that Costa Rica is analyzing the draft, that Costa  
Rica has no problem with its language, and that in general  
Costa Rica is in agreement with it.

¶4. When asked if Costa Rica would be willing to make a  
statement in advance of the May 10 referendum, Salas stated  
that GoCR Ambassador to the UN Jorge Urbina would be the one  
to make such a statement, which would entail a draft, and  
that Salas would talk to Foreign Minister Stagno about doing  
so and would raise the rest of the talking points further up  
the MFA chain.

¶5. Salas then asked what China's position is on the  
referendum. Poloff relayed reftel points (paragraph 9)  
regarding expressed opposition by Indonesia, Singapore and  
the Phillipines to the drafting and referendum processes, as  
well as the point that China, Russia and some ASEAN members  
are welcoming the referendum as a sign of progress toward  
reconciliation, however flawed and undemocratic it may be.

¶6. Finally, Salas asked specifically what types of sanctions  
the US is considering imposing this week. Please advise what  
our response should be, if any.

BRENNAN